

New Mexico Interagency Coordination Group

Meeting Notes
January 23, 2004
Albuquerque, NM

Attendance:

Donna Hummel, Mitigation Specialist, BLM State Office
Nancy Neskauskas, Fire Mgmt Officer, State Forestry
Karen Michaud, Fuels Specialist, BLM State Office
Lorene Guffey, WUI Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Susan Lee, Fuels Specialist, SW Region, US Forest Service
Bob Lee, Fire Mgmt. Officer, BLM State Office
Bob Lineback, Fire Mgmt Specialist, Intermountain Region, US Park Service
John Selkirk, Fire Planner, BLM State Office

Old Business:

NM-Fire Plan- Community Assessment- Nancy Neskauskas

- Due date to make changes to the plan is Feb. 6th for this year. The State will finalize the Plan next month
- The draft is available as a PDF on the State Forestry Web page for review.
- Nancy will check with BIA to see if they have any changes for this year.
- The twenty WUI polygons that represent 217 communities were rated from high to low. These polygons can be changed. We can add new ones or take them away. The plan will be revised each year to show changes in the community ratings. And maybe look at taking communities off the list when they reach the low category, ie Los Alamos.
- Nancy will change Table 1 to explain the abbreviations to the Funding Source column.
- Nancy will also add a paragraph to explain the procedure to update the Plan every year.

NFPORS- Susan Lee

- Susan is working on updates to interagency project map. She is requesting corrections for incorrect Lats and Longs.
- The purpose of the map is to help collaborate on high priority projects.
- Susan will send off the draft FY04 map when she receives the corrected lats and longs.
- Nancy will send the Communities at Risk Polygons to Susan so they can be displayed with the projects.
- Susan will run off the FY05 map on April 1.
- It was suggested that the RFA/VFA funded departments be posted on a map. Each agency will collect the RFA/VFA lats and longs and add them to the master spread sheet. And then send the sheet to Susan.
- It was decided that all NM NFPORS users will utilize the new Comments Box in NFPORS. "All field units will utilize the new NFPORS remarks box for each treatment to document collaboration. Please enter date of collaboration, name of partners collaborated with, and prioritization of projects. Please refer to NASF memo for additional guidance."

- Draft BLM Instructional Memorandum which gives direction for NFPORS deadlines: Requested prior to the Interagency Fuels Workshop in Albuquerque Feb. 2-6,2004

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (FA-630) I

EMS Transmission 03/03/03
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2004-XXX
Expires: 9/30/04

To: All Field Offices

From: Director; Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Fiscal Year 2005 Hazardous Fuels (2823) and Wildland Urban Interface (2824) Projects

DD: 04/01/04
04/15/04
05/01/04

Program Area: The program areas involved are Hazardous Fuels (2823) and Wildland Urban Interface (2824).

Purpose: The Department of Interior (DOI) has directed the Bureaus to have their fiscal year (FY) 2005 Hazardous Fuels and Wildland Urban Interface projects submitted to DOI by May 1, 2004. This Instruction Memorandum (IM) establishes due dates and sets state performance targets. Targets reflect the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) agreement with the DOI and states past performance in priority and workload measures.

Background: The Secretary of the Interior has directed the BLM to submit FY 2005 Hazardous Fuels (2823) and Wildland Urban Interface (2824) projects into the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) by May 1, 2004.

The Office of Fire and Aviation (OF&A) and the states have established initial targets for both Hazardous Fuels and Wildland Urban Interface projects. Attachment 1 shows the initial implementation targets established for each state. The total of the state targets equals the Bureau's contract with the DOI.

Policy/Action: Field Offices and State Office are to enter proposed FY05 projects into NFPORS. Field Office and State Office NFPORS submissions must include projects for planning, implementation, monitoring, risk assessments, mitigation plans, education projects and community assistance agreements. **Any changes from the identified state targets must be coordinated through the OF&A.** By May 15, 2004 the states will also submit to the OF&A a

summary list of any projects above the funding and target figures shown in attachment 1. Projects on this list should not be entered into NFPORS.

Charter- Susan Lee

- The group reviewed the revised Charter.
- The date of the Charter will be added to the top. And a view changes where made under the Membership and Authority section.
- Susan will make the changes and give to Bill Waterbury the new Chair of the SWCG for signature.
- Bill Waterbury will then give the Charter to Jay Ellington to post on the SWCG web page.

FY05- Projects Collaboration- Group

- We will utilize Fire Regime and Condition Class to set priorities.
- We will also utilize the risk assessments in the New Mexico Fire Plan, Communities at Risk Assessment. We will work with the communities before we move a community rating.
- We will show progress on a yearly basis in the NM Fire Plan. A paragraph will be added in the final report to address the process for updating the report annually.
- We will get project lats and longs to Susan for FY05 project map by April 1.
- Nancy, Bob Lee and Bob Lineback will address getting zones to collaborate on fuels project at the Smoke Meeting March 9th at 1300 in Albuquerque. They will utilize the White Mountain Zone plan as a guide.

New Business:

Fire Program Analysis (FPA)- Susan Lee

- Susan said that Tom Zimmerman was concerned that the new Fire Management Units (FMUs) don't match up across agency boundaries. And that the objectives of the polygon FMUs will be different.
- There is a meeting on Feb 5th at the Hyatt Regency Civic Plaza in Phoenix to explain the new FMUs and the Fire Planning Units (FPU) under the new fire planning tool FPA. This program will replace FIREPRO and NFMAS. They are starting with the preparedness portion of the program and then add on the Fuels and Prevention/Mitigation portion of the program. The program should be available Oct 1, 2004.
- The goal of FPA is to manage fire on a landscape basis, as opposed to managing by agency jurisdiction. Through FPA, we will maximize efficiencies by sharing resources, using the closest forces concept, and developing interagency programs whenever possible.
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Smoke- Bob Lee and Bob Lineback

- Smoke Zone meeting March 9th in Albuquerque to have Dispatch Zones coordinate projects for Smoke Management purposes.
- It was suggested that a template be developed from the White Mountain Zone plan to give to the zones prior to the March 9th meeting.

- The NM State Environmental Department, Air Quality Bureau will break the zone conflicts.
- It was suggested that the zones draft plans for the fall burn season for fuels collaboration
- The NM members of the SWCG will head up the smoke meeting.

NEXT MEETING

- NM State Forestry will host meeting March 16th at 10:00.
- State Forestry Building, 1220 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM

Tasks for the Next Meeting

- Finalize New Mexico Fire Plan, Communities at Risk Assessment
- Have FY04 map ready for review.
- Have RFA/VFA lats and longs ready for map.